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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JUNE 06., 2007

11. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for June 06, 2007. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL:

12. BOLGE / HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): The dailies report the intra-party controversies that followed final nomination lists submitted to elections boards. Journalists asked State Minister Kursat Tuzmen why the province where Tuzmen would run for the parliamentary elections was shifted from Gaziantep to Mersin. Tuzmen said that the decision was taken with regard to which provinces would most probably cast more votes for his party (AKP). Tuzmen further said, since he was a diver, he wanted to return back to a place where there is sea. Provincial Chairperson of AKP in Mersin said that they were aiming to win 6 seats with lawmakers from Mersin. Hurriyet's Cukurova supplement reports that AKP's nomination lists in Gaziantep startled everybody when it was found out that Tuzmen would run in Mersin. CHP in Mersin had already listed two names from the Tarsus district in its pre-elections for nomination lists. However, national headquarters nominated two other candidates, who had also run in the pre-elections and ranked 14th and 11th, as the first and third ranking nominees in CHP's Mersin list. Meanwhile, Alevi organizations showed reaction because no Alevi candidates were listed in CHP's ticket.

13. SABAH / EVRENSEL / BOLGE: Following the ceremony, which was held in Elazig for seven privates who were killed by PKK terrorists in Tunceli's Pulumur district (see press summary for June 5), the coffins of the privates were sent to their hometowns today. The dailies all report the grief of the families of soldiers who died in the attack.

SECURITY

14. GUNDEM: The PKK announced that the PKK attack on a jandarma station in Tunceli's Pulumur district which killed 8 soldiers and wounded 6 other, was only a warning issued against Turkish Army Forces (see press summary for June 5). According to the daily, Turkish forces blockaded the village located near the jandarma station the PKK attacked and detained 4 villagers. A jeep was reportedly used during the attack and the owner of the jeep from the village gave his statement to the military officials and said that his car was seized by the PKK members an hour before the incident. The daily further claims that the death toll is actually higher than what is officially announced.

¶5. GUNDEM / SABAH: Gundem daily claimed that the PKK hit two Cobra helicopters with anti-aircraft guns in Hakkari's Cukurca district. Sabah daily reports that General Chief of Staff refuted such allegations and said that one helicopter safely landed in an area in Cukurca to see whether it was hit with light-weaponry. Personnel, upon seeing that there was no hit, took off and continued its mission.

¶6. EVRENSEL: Unidentified people attacked the DTP party building in Eskisehir and threw Molotov cocktail in the building the previous night. There were no casualties since it was not the working hours, but, all of the property within the building was burned.

¶7. GUNDEM: The daily reports that four of the six people, who were detained on alleged grounds that they participated the previous night in a funeral of a PKK member killed in a conflict in Siirt on an unspecified date, have been arrested on charges that "they aided and abetted the terrorist organization". A Dicle News Agency reporter, who was also detained as he participated in the same funeral as a reporter, claimed that he was tortured under detention.

CRIME AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

¶8. SABAH (GUNEY): One of the 77 illegal migrants, who were caught on May 25 in Adana's Ceyhan district, fled from the gymnasium hall in Adana where they were being kept temporarily by the police because of the ongoing bureaucratic processes. Police are now searching for the Afghan national who fled.

¶9. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Upon receiving a tip-off Jandarma teams raided a house in Van's Baskale district and found 50 kilograms of heroin. One person was detained.

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ECONOMY

¶10. SABAH (GUNEY) / BOLGE / EKSPRES: It is reported that BOTAS (Petroleum Pipeline Corporation) lost 1,097,347 USD because of the leakage from the Ceyhan-Kirikkale pipeline caused accidentally by a highway construction activity in Pozanti district of Adana in late in April (see press summary for May 1). 2433 tons of oil was wasted. The official from BOTAS also noted that they cleaned the river where the oil leaked and therefore the spill did not affect the Seyhan reservoir.

CULTURE / SOCIETY / ENVIRONMENT

¶11. SABAH (GUNEY) / BOLGE: The daily reports that Yusuf Halacoglu, the head of the Turkish History Institute, gave a conference on the Armenian issue in Adana. The conference, which was called "How the Western World Sees the Armenian Issue", was organized by Adana Chamber of Commerce and Association for Businessmen Supporting Information Technology. Mr. Halacoglu reportedly based his arguments on documents derived from the archives. During the conference Halacoglu said "We can of course maintain our relationship with the EU, but we do not necessarily have to enter the EU." Halacoglu said that the Armenian genocide claims could be refuted by the documents available at the historical archives. The Adana Mayor and the Governor attended the conference, as well.

¶12. EKSPRES / BOLGE: It is reported that (Turkish) actors and actresses flooded into the city of Adana for the Fourteenth Adana Altinkoza Film Festival which is being sponsored by the Adana Municipality and which runs between June 4 and 11.

¶13. BOLGE: A team from French national TV station TF1 came to Karatas district of Adana to shoot a documentary on children working in the cotton fields. The team was interested in the social project undertaken by the International Labor Organization and the Turkish Ministry of Education that aims to

win those children in the fields back to education system in a bid to struggle with child labor.

¶14. GUNDEM: A 34-year-old women, mother of four kids, hanged herself and committed suicide at the base floor of her house in Bingol.
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